

2. A method of transferring information associated with playback of a recording at a first device connected to a second device via a network, comprising:
collecting use data associated with the recording; and
transferring the use data from the first device to the second device via the network.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the use data are related to at least one of a portion of the recording and play time of the recording.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:
obtaining user demographic data; and
sending the user demographic data to the second device.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

7. A method as recited in claim 2,
wherein the local device is a computer, and
wherein said collecting includes monitoring operations performed by the computer while the recording is played.

8. A method as recited in claim 7,
wherein said monitoring detects software executing on the computer while the recording is played, and
wherein the use data transferred to the second device include identification of the software executing on the computer while the recording is played.

9. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said monitoring detects user inputs while the recording is played.

10. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said monitoring detects operational data transmitted over the network to and from the computer.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the operational data include at least one uniform resource locator.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said method further comprises supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

13. A method as recited in claim 12,

wherein the use data include the operational data, and

wherein said method further comprises:

sending user demographic data from the first device to the second device via the network; and

selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

14. A method as recited in claim 7,

wherein said collecting detects software loaded in the computer, and

wherein the use data transferred to the second device include identification of the software loaded into the computer.

15. A method as recited in claim 14,

wherein said collecting detects frequency of use of the software loaded in the computer, and

wherein the use data transferred to the second device include the frequency of use of the software loaded in the computer.

16. A method as recited in claim 2,
further comprising registering a user of the first device to obtain a user identifier, and
wherein said transferring further includes transferring the user identifier with the use data to the second device.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
obtaining user demographic data; and
sending the user demographic data to the second device.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

20. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the use data include frequency data indicating number of times the recording is played at the first device.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the recording contains segments, and
wherein the frequency data indicate the number of times the segments are played at the first device.

22. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the recording contains segments,
wherein said method further comprises identifying at least one segment of the recording, and

wherein the use data include segment data identifying the at least one segment played at the first device.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the segment data include a number of times the at least one segment has been played at the first device.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the segment data include how much of the at least one segment has been played each time.

25. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the segment data include how much of the at least one segment has been played.

26. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the segment data include how often the at least one segment has been played.

27. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the recording is a compact disc with audio content, the segments are tracks on the compact disc and the use data indicate playback of the tracks on the compact disc.

28. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the recording is a digital versatile disc, the segments are tracks on the digital versatile disc and the use data indicate playback of the tracks on the digital versatile disc.

29. A method as recited in claim 22,
further comprising identifying the recording based on length of the segments to obtain a recording identifier, and
wherein said transferring includes sending the recording identifier to the second device.

30. A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the recording is a disc and the length of the segments is obtained from table of contents information on the disc.

31. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the recording is a computer file containing digitized audio signals.

32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the computer file contains audio data compressed using MPEG encoding.

33. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the use data include total time of use of the recording.

34. A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the use data include time of use of the first device.

35. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

36. A method as recited in claim 35, further comprising:
obtaining user demographic data; and
sending the user demographic data to the second device.

37. A method as recited in claim 36, further comprising selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

38. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising continuing said collecting and transferring of the use data from the first device to the second device via the network as long as the recording is being played at the first device.

39. A method as recited in claim 2,
further comprising detecting a volume level at which the recording is being
played, and
wherein said sending includes sending data indicating the volume level.

40. A method as recited in claim 2,
further comprising reading a recording identifier on the recording, and
wherein said transferring includes sending the recording identifier to the second
device.

41. A system for obtaining information based on playback of at least one recording at a
first device connected to a second device via a network, comprising:
collecting means for collecting use data related to at least one of a portion of the
recording and play time of the recording;
sending means for sending the use data from the first device to the second
device via the network; and
storing means for storing the use data at the second device.

42. A system as recited in claim 41,
wherein the use data relate to a plurality of recordings, and
wherein the use data include frequency of use of the recordings.

43. A computer-readable storage storing instructions to control a processor to perform
a process comprising:
collecting use data associated with playback of a recording at a first device; and
transferring the use data from the first device to a second device connected to
the first device via a network.

44. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 43, wherein said process further comprises:

obtaining user demographic data; and
sending the user demographic data to the second device.

45. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 44, wherein said process further comprises obtaining as the use data, information regarding playing of at least one portion of the recording.

46. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 45, wherein said process further comprises supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

47. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 46, wherein said process further comprises selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

48. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 43,
wherein said process further comprises monitoring operations performed by the first device during playback of the recording, and
wherein the use data indicate the operations performed by the first device during playback of the recording.

49. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 48, wherein the operational data include at least one uniform resource locator.

50. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 49, wherein said process further comprises supplying complementary content for the recording to the first device via the network.

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51. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 50, wherein said process further comprises:

sending user demographic data from the first device to the second device via the network; and

5 selecting the complementary content based on the use data and the user demographic data.

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52. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 43,
wherein the first device is a computer,
wherein said collecting detects software loaded in the computer, and
wherein the use data transferred to the second device include identification of
the software loaded into the computer.

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53. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 52,
wherein said collecting detects frequency of use of the software loaded in the
computer, and
wherein the use data transferred to the second device include the frequency of
use of the software loaded in the computer.

54. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 43,
wherein said process further comprises registering a user of the first device to
obtain a user identifier, and
wherein said transferring further includes transferring the user identifier with
the use data to the second device.

55. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 54, wherein said process further
comprises:

obtaining user demographic data; and
sending the user demographic data to the second device.

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wherein the use data include segment data identifying the at least one segment played at the first device.

59. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 58, wherein the segment data include how much of the at least one segment has been played each time.

61. A computer-readable storage as recited in claim 57, wherein the segment data include how often the at least one segment has been played.

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